

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 10938 151209Z

44

ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6101

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY N

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 10938

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EG PFOR PINT LY

SUBJ: SADAT INTERVIEW WITH AL-SIYASA: QADDHAFI WARNED AGAIN

1. SUMMARY: ALL PAPERS LEAD WITH SADAT'S LATEST WARNING TO QADDHAFI WHO, SADAT ALLEGES, IS PREPARING "ATTACK" EGYPT AND OTHER NEIGHBORS. IF GOE PLANS TAKE ACTION AGAINST LARG, SUCH AN ALLEGATION COULD BE PART OF STAGE SETTING. SYRIA ALSO TAKES LUMPS FOR ITS "OBSTINACY" IN LEBANON, AND WEALTHY ARABS ARE CALLED "STINGY." SADAT IS "OPTIMISTIC" THAT US ELECTIONS WILL NOT AFFECT
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 10938 151209Z

US STRATEGY IN ME. ALLEGATIONS OF CORRUPTION IN GOE

ARE ADMITTED BUT DOWNPLAYED. END SUMMARY

2. CAIRO PRESS AUG 14 LEADS WITH INTERVIEW GIVEN BY SADAT EARLIER THIS WEEK TO CHIEF EDITOR KUWAITI DAILY AL-SIYASA. BROAD RANGE OF TOPICS COVERED, BUT EMPHASIS GIVEN TO SADAT'S "GRAVE WARNING" TO QADDHAFI WHO IS "PREPARING TO ATTACK SUDAN, CHAD, TUNISIA, AND EGYPT."

3. WARNING TO QADDHAFI: SADAT MAKES NEW CHARGE THAT QADDHAFI PREPARING ATTACK EGYPT AND HE REPEATS ALL THE OLD ALLEGATIONS AS WELL. REPLYING TO QUESTION ON THE SUDAN AFFAIR, SADAT USES MOST OMINOUS LANGUAGE SO FAR: "QADDHAFI WILL NOT ESCAPE FROM MY HAND." CURRENTLY LARG IS RUNNING TRAINING CAMPS FOR "TERRORIST OPERATIONS" TO BE CARRIED OUT BY MERCENARIES IN SUCH FOREIGN COUNTRIES AS SUDAN, CHAD, TUNISIA, AND EGYPT. ENTEBBE AFFAIR, PRESIDENT CHARGED, WAS PLANNED BY QADDHAFI AND FPLP'S HABASH; HIJACKERS RECEIVED THEIR ARMS IN ATHENS VIA LIBYAN DIPLOMATIC POUCH.

4. SYRIA AND LEBANON: SYRIA MUST WITHDRAW. PASSIVITY OF ARAB REGIMES TOWARD LEBANON IS APPALLING. PLO IS SOLE LEGITIMATE REP OF PALESTINIANS. SYRIA AND JORDAN TRIED TO BLOCK FINAL SETTLEMENT OF PALESTINIAN PROBLEM AND HAVE FOILED PLANS TO MAKE 1976 YEAR OF PALESTINE.

5. WEALTHY ARABS ARE STINGY: REPEATING HIS ESTIMATE THAT EGYPT NEEDS 12 BILLION DOLLARS FROM WEALTHY ARABS (RATHER THAN THE CURRENT 2 BILLION PROPOSED CAPITALIZATION OF THE GULF FUND FOR EGYPT), PRESIDENT ADDED ACIDLY THAT "WE WILL NEVER COMPLAIN OF THE OIL STATES' STINGINESS TOWARD US." (COMMENT: ALL EGYPTIANS THINK PENINSULAR ARABS HAVE BEEN INTOLERABLY STINGY TOWARD THE COUNTRY WHICH HAS SACRIFICED SO MUCH FOR "THE ARAB CAUSE." SADAT IN PARTICULAR ABHORS HAVING TO BEG FOR MONEY FROM, AS ONE OF OUR SAUDI COLLEAGUES PUT IT, "ALL THOSE UNCIVILIZED BEDOUIN.")

6. US ELECTIONS: SADAT, WHO USUALLY SEEKS PLACE GOE/USG RELATIONS IN INSTITUTIONAL RATHER THAN PERSONAL CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 CAIRO 10938 151209Z

TERMS, ALLOWED HIMSELF TO BE SLIGHTLY DRAWN. IT WOULD BE "VETTER" IF FORD IS REELECTED: IF CARTER WINS "WE WOULD NEED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT HIS VIEWS." IN EITHER CASE, "I AM OPTIMISTIC, SINCE WE ARE DEALING NOT WITH INDIVIDUALS BUT WITH USG AND GREAT POWERS PROCEED ALONG KNOWN STRATEGIC COURSES."

7. USSR/GOE: THERE IS NOTHING NEW IN BILATERAL RELA-

TIONS--"NO ARMS, NO EXCHANGE OF LETTERS." PRESIDENT SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE SARG CLAIM THAT USSR HAD WARNED IT TO WITHDRAW FROM LEBANON: SYRIA IS "APPARENTLY TRYING TO PRETEND USSR IS CONFRONTING IT."

8. EGYPTIAN ELECTIONS: SADAT DENIED LOCAL RUMORS THAT CARETAKER GOVERNMENT WOULD BE INSTALLED UNTIL OCTOBER ELECTIONS AND DISMISSED SUGGESTION THAT THE LEFTIST GROUP HAS NOT BEEN GIVEN EQUAL ELECTION OPPORTUNITIES.

9. CORRUPTION AT HOME: AS USUAL WHEN MR. JARALLAH COMES TO EGYPT, SADAT WAS ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT SOME DELICATE INTERNAL ISSUES WHICH, OUR SAUDI AND KUWAITI CONTACTS TELL US, ARE OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN THEIR CAPITALS. THIS TIME SADAT DENIED THAT CORRUPTION IN EGYPT IS SERIOUS PROBLEM, NOTING THAT THE EVIL EXISTS IN EVEN THE MOST CIVILIZED STATES. JARALLAH RAISED AN EVEN TOUCHIER SUBJECT, MRS. SADAT'S ALLEGED POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS. PRESIDENT INSISTED SHE CONFINES HERSELF TO SOCIAL AND "FEMINIST" ACTIVITY AND ONLY IN MENUFIYA GOVERNATE: IT IS "NONSENSE" TO SAY, "AS SOME DO," THAT SHE IS ON HER WAY TO A VICE PRESIDENCY. (COMMENT: MRS. SADAT IS, OF COURSE, GENUINELY INTERESTED IN SOCIAL PROBLEMS, BUT SHE KNOWS ONLY POLITICAL ACTION CAN SOLVE SUCH THORNY ISSUES AS PROMOTING BIRTH CONTROL. TWO LIKE-THINKING EGYPTIAN LADIES TELL US THAT SHE IS HOLDING HER FIRE UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS, BOTH BECAUSE OF THE CURRENT AZHAR CAMPAIGN AGAINST WESTER-STYLE SOCIAL LAXITY AND BECAUSE SHE HOPES THAT THE NEW CABINET WILL INCLUDE TOUGHER MINSOCIAL AFFAIRS THAN THE PRESENT INCUMBENT.)

10. COMMENT: ALL PAPERS REINFORCE "IMPORTANCE" OF CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 CAIRO 10938 151209Z

SADAT'S "WARNING" TO QADDHAFI. AHRAH'S EDITORIAL TELLS LIBYANS THAT GREAT NATIONS DO NOT LEAVE THEIR DESTINIES PREY TO RAIDS BY THE FOOLISH AND INSANE. BOTH SADAT'S TOUGH TALK AND THE AHRAH EDITORIAL REFLECT THE GROWING PUBLIC ANGER TOWARD QADDHAFI AND MAKE CLEAR THAT OFFICIAL EGYPTIAN PATIENCE IS EXHAUSTED. SADAT'S CHARGE THAT QADDHAFI IS PREPARING TO "ATTACK" EGYPT MAY JUST BE SCALED UP PROPAGANDA, BUT IF GOE HAS DECIDED TO MOVE AGAINST QADDHAFI, THEN "SELF DEFENSE" IS AS GOOD A PRETEXT AS ANY.

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